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~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~

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COUNTRY Brazil

SUBJECT Potential Candidates in the 1950 Presidential Elections

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1. The possibility that Adhemar de Barros, Getulio Vargas, and Luiz Carlos Prestes would form an electoral alliance prior to the 1950 presidential elections is remote. If such an alliance were formed, it is believed that no single or coalition candidate or party could successfully oppose the alliance.
2. It is not believed that Prestes would oppose such an alliance if he believed that the Communist Party of Brazil (PCB) would benefit from it. Whether an alliance is formed or not, he is anticipating the disturbances which accompany any election with the conviction that the PCB will derive certain benefits from the situation.
3. De Barros is considered to be an ambitious and intelligent individual who would not hesitate to align himself with Prestes or Vargas if he thought such an alliance would further his political and personal ambitions, which are known to be unlimited. He believes, however, that if such an alliance were made, the Army would be likely to rise up and take over the government to prevent the elections from taking place. He is also opposed by a certain group within his own party, the Partido Social Progressista (Socialist Progressive Party - PSP), which would oppose cooperation with the Communists. De Barros hopes to secure at least the tacit support of President Enrico Gaspar Dutra, and this would not be forthcoming if he formed the above alliance.
4. Vargas, an astute politician, is still an enigma and would act as he felt the circumstances demanded. His desire for revenge against the present government, which includes many of his former subordinates, might cause him to want to join forces with Prestes or de Barros, but some of his associates are powerful enough to prevent his forming such an alliance. Vargas feels that the Brazilian electorate, especially the uneducated masses, is turning to him more and more as the only person who can help the nation. If his popularity grows, he will be careful not to ally himself with de Barros or Prestes because that would alienate the Church.
5. Vargas has recently been gaining strength in the State of Rio Grande do Sul.

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Part of his increased popularity can be attributed to the weakness and inability of the present state administration, which has neither governed satisfactorily nor maintained unity within its own party, the Partido Social Democratico (Social Democratic Party - PSD).

6. Oswaldo Aranha, whose name has already appeared in some newspapers as a presidential candidate, is apparently being supported by Eduardo Gomes, a former presidential aspirant. Gomes' endorsement of Aranha has aroused a great deal of interest in the Federal Chamber of Deputies.

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